

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Canceled).

2. (Canceled).

3. (Canceled).

4. (Canceled).

5. (Canceled).

6. (Canceled.)

7. (Canceled).

8. (Canceled).

9. (Canceled).

10. (Canceled).

11. (Canceled).

12. (Canceled).

13. (Canceled).

14. (Canceled).

15. (Canceled).

16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously presented) An isolated estrogen receptor- $\beta$  comprising the sequence depicted in Figure 4, SEQ ID. NO:2.

18. (Canceled).

19. (Previously presented) A method for identifying hER $\beta$ -interactive compounds, said method comprising:

(a) contacting the polypeptide of claim 17 with a labeled ligand in the presence of test compounds, to form test reactions, and in the absence of test compounds, to form control reactions;

(b) incubating said test and control reactions under appropriate conditions to achieve equilibrium binding of said labeled ligand to hER $\beta$ ;

(c) determining the level of binding of said labeled ligand to hER $\beta$  in said test and control cultures; and

(d) identifying as a hER $\beta$ -interactive compound any compound that reduces the binding of said labeled ligand to hER $\beta$ .

20. (Original) A method as defined in claim 19, wherein said ligand is 17- $\beta$  estradiol.

21. (Original) A method as defined in claim 19, wherein said hER $\beta$ -interactive compound is an agonist.

22. (Original) A method as defined in claim 19, wherein said hER $\beta$ -interactive compound is an antagonist.

23. (Canceled).

24. (Canceled).

25. (Canceled).

26. (Canceled).

27. (Canceled).

28. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 17, wherein the polypeptide is modified with a label capable of providing a detectable signal.

29. (Currently amended) The polypeptide of claim 28, wherein the ~~signal~~ label is a radioisotope.

30. (Currently amended) The polypeptide of claim 28, wherein the ~~signal~~ label is a fluorescent compound.

31. (Canceled).

32. (Canceled).

33. (Canceled).

34. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 17, wherein the polypeptide is produced in intact cells.

35. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 17, wherein the polypeptide is produced in cell-free translation systems.

36. (Canceled).

37. (Canceled).

38. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 17, wherein the polypeptide is chemically synthesized.

41. (Canceled).